



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

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PSC RE-SCHEDULES SEDALIA AND MARSHALL LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

Jefferson City (January 28, 2004)---Due to inclement weather on January 26, 2004, the Missouri Public Service Commission postponed local public hearings scheduled for **Marshall** and **Sedalia** in the Aquila, Incorporated d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P (Aquila) natural gas rate case. The Commission has now re-scheduled those local public hearings for **February 9, 2004**. The local public hearing schedule appears below:

Marshall

February 9

Noon*

City Council Chambers

Marshall City Hall

214 N. Lafayette Street

Sedalia

February 9

5:00 pm*

City Council Chambers

Municipal Building

2nd & Osage Streets

NOTE: *The PSC Staff will conduct a general information session starting at this time to answer any questions customers may have. The information session will be followed by the local public hearing.

These local public hearings will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

Local public hearings give customers of the Company an opportunity to comment on the rate proposal currently before the Public Service Commission. In addition, customers can bring any service related problems to the attention of the Commission.

Aquila is seeking to increase annual natural gas revenues by approximately \$5.6 million in its Aquila Networks-MPS system. Under the proposal, Aquila states a typical Aquila Networks-MPS residential customer using 802 Ccf (a Ccf equals 100 cubic feet) of natural gas a year would have an increase of \$9.03 a month or \$108.36 a year.

This rate case reflects what are called the non-gas costs of providing service to customers. Non-gas costs are generally operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as natural gas mains and service lines that carry natural gas to the customer's home or business). The Missouri Public Service Commission does not regulate gas costs or rates that are charged to Aquila for natural gas by wholesale suppliers. The Commission does perform a regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies such as Aquila make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Aquila Networks-MPS serves approximately 46,000 natural gas customers in the former service area of Missouri Public Service.

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